

AGED WIFE'S BATTLE FOR NAME AND FORTUNE

Mrs. Augusta Burton, Divorced for Twenty-four Years from Husband with Whom She Lived, Faces Second Wife in Court and Alleges Fraud and Forgery.

In the Supreme Court of Brooklyn today a trial was begun to unravel the tangled web of deceit which William A. Burton left to the two women who bear his name and who claim to have been legally married to him. All his life the man lived a lie, and in his will, executed after he was fatally stricken with apoplexy, and set down the word which bore the basis of to-day's suit.

When Justice Dickey called the case in which Mrs. Augusta Mary Childs Burton, of Williamsbridge, seeks to set aside as spurious and fraudulently obtained, the decree of divorce from her received by W. A. Burton a quarter of a century ago. The court-room was crowded with people curiously interested in the insanity story.

woman. She was fair to look upon, her woman. One was old and careworn, but with sharp, piercing eyes that never wavered as she shot now and then quick flashes over the court.

The other was a much younger woman. She was fair to look upon, her cheeks were rosy and her eyes were bright. The lines of age had not robbed her of a form of suppleness and grace.

The Two Wives.

The elder woman was Mrs. Mary Burton, who was married to William A. Burton Jan. 26, 1864, and lived with him until 1890, when she left her home at Kings Park, L. I., and came to New York to nurse her sick daughter.

The younger was Isadora E. Nichols, who was married to William A. Burton June 4, 1900.

It was on last Thanksgiving, the day following Burton's death by apoplexy, that Mrs. Mary Burton learned the man she had believed to be her husband for thirty-six years, claimed to have divorced her in 1876, although he continued to live with her twenty-four years after the granting of the decree.

The news came from Mrs. Isadora Nichols Burton, who claims the \$20,000 left by Burton and the right to mourn him as his legal widow.

To-day through her attorneys, the gray-haired woman whom Burton tried to cast off in his will said that she cared nothing for the estate.

For Her Good Name.

"I do care for my good name and that of my daughter," she said, "and I shall fight until every resort is exhausted to legally prove Burton traduced us in his will."

Mrs. Burton No. 1 was represented by Attorneys Well, Wols & Kramer, of 39 Broadway, while Ackery & Miles represented Mrs. Burton No. 2.

All the attorneys were in court ready to proceed, the attorneys for the young wife said they were ready to oppose the motion to re-open the divorce proceedings.

"We have a bombshell for Mrs. Burton No. 1," said Attorney Ackery, "that will come in at the right time. Yes, Mrs. Burton came down to-day, but she will have nothing to say until the court proceedings are over."

Messrs. Well, Wols & Kramer reviewed the facts heretofore published and submitted affidavits from Mrs. Augusta Burton, Edward B. Burton, a brother of the dead man, Stephen S. Childs, brother of Mrs. Burton No. 1, and Belle A. Van Vleet, the daughter of the dead man, in support of the motion to re-open the case.

Old Wife Testifies.

Mrs. Augusta Burton's affidavit recounted her life with Burton, and told how almost to the time of his death she had signed papers as his wife and had been recognized as such by him and all their friends.

She also asserted that the letter attached to the decree of divorce purporting to have been her written confession of fault upon which the divorce was made, was a forgery, and she never knew of it until her husband's will was made public.

Stephen S. Childs testified in his affidavit that he knew nothing of the divorce, and that the testimony alleged to have been given by him was wholly false.

Edward Burton, brother of William A. Burton, testified that his brother always introduced Mrs. Burton as his wife, and knew her to be true, that he knew they were married and lived a lifetime together.

Ackery, for Mrs. Burton No. 2, said in telling the story as it stands in a woman's life, that the case would not be pressed.

"Don't waste time," said Justice Dickey, sharply. "It is pressurized.

Divorce Was Legal.

Another affidavit was from Caroline Connally, of Geneva, N. Y. She said that she lived in the same town with Mrs. Burton. The story was known by many. The Burton family fully, she testified.

Mr. Ackery also presented in evidence the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton, which he said was written to her husband acknowledging her mistake and asking him to fix any punishment he might inflict.

Several communications from those who sign with Van Wyck in the controversy followed.

Allow me to voice my approval of the course pursued by Mayor Van Wyck in refusing to issue the City Hall flag in honor of Great Britain's dead queen, a slight reaction of sentiment has manifested itself and the Evening World has received more than a few letters commending the Mayor's course.

The majority of writers seem inclined to criticize Van Wyck, but a small minority go to great lengths in praising the Chief Executive's stand to those who insisted on no paying respect to the memory of Queen Victoria.

The Evening World wishes to ascertain the views of its readers on the policy pursued by the Mayor and will gladly print letters bearing on the subject.

Several communications from those who sign with Van Wyck in the controversy followed.

Allow me to voice my approval of the course pursued by Mayor Van Wyck in refusing to issue the City Hall flag in honor of Great Britain's dead queen, a slight reaction of sentiment has manifested itself and the Evening World has received more than a few letters commending the Mayor's course.

Another affidavit was from Caroline Connally, of Geneva, N. Y. She said that she lived in the same town with Mrs. Burton. The story was known by many. The Burton family fully, she testified.

Mr. Ackery said that Mr. Burton's mother was divorced from him before Justice Dickey took much interest in proceedings. "A referee will have



MRS. ISADORA BURTON

finally to be appointed," said he. "It is any sin of omission or commission, and I am bound to the truth that you inflicted upon me without a murmur. If there is anything you wish me to do, or get it into my hands, I will do it, for I will do so, and you know I feel that I have grievously sinned against you and am willing to atone with my whole soul, but I do not believe that you do me the greatest injury if I tell you that you do me the greatest injury if you give me my freedom to do what I may, for I live a living death here. Summer sky, autumn leaf, May God in His mercy bring peace to our harassed souls right speedily is my constant prayer. Yours truly, AUGUSTA BURTON." Attorneys for Mrs. Augusta Burton say that the confession and all the letters accompanying it are forged.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from

"Alleged Confession.

This is the letter accompanying the alleged confession of Mrs. Augusta Burton:

"WATERBLOOM, N. Y., Aug. 31.

"My Dear Willoughby:—I send you the paper you wished. Were I never so base I do not

"do not wish to excuse myself from